

## THE ROLE OF ISLET CELL AUTOANTIBODIES, ISLET CELL ANTIGEN-2 ANTIBODY AND ANTIOXIDANT ENZYMES IN DIABETIC PATIENTS TYPE 2

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### ABSTRACT

*This study included 120 individuals, 60 type 2 diabetic patients and 60 control individuals who had no family history of diabetes mellitus (DM)*

*Laboratory investigations were done to estimate glutamic acid decarboxilase (GAD) and islet cell antigen-2 (IA-2) autoantibodies by ELISA assay, antioxidant enzymes as glutathion peroxidase (GPX) and superoxide dismutase (SOD) and HbA1c as marker of glycemic control for these patients and control group.*

*During the period from December 2010 to the end of December 2012. This study enrolled diabetic patients who attended Al-Tahreer General Hospital, Al-Basra Maternity and Pediatric Hospital and Al-Sader Teaching Hospital.*

*Regarding type 2, it is noticed that 15 (25 %) and 8 (15 %) of those patients were positive for GADA and IA-2A respectively (LADA patients) characterized by certain clinical features that differentiate them from islet cell autoantibodies negatives type 2 diabetics as it was found that the majority of patients with islet cell positivity develop the disease at younger age than those negative patients (57.1% Vs7.7) regarding GADA &(33.3% Vs 2.6%) regarding IA-2A.*

*Additionally, islet cell autoantibodies positive patients were significantly of higher HbA1c levels than those who were islet cell autoantibodies negative patients (P, 0.001). The difficulty in achieving glycemic control despite OHD and tendency to insulin therapy is attributed to the fact that pathogenesis of diabetes in LADA patients are due to beta cell destruction rather than insulin resistance as in classical type 2 DM.*

*In addition to that patients of type 2 were significantly lower than control (P < 0.001) in mean activity of both antioxidant enzymes (SOD and GPX) in RBC.*

*Also lower mean activity of both antioxidant enzymes (SOD and GPX) in RBC were showed higher significant in patients who had uncontrolled diabetes (HbA1c level > 8%) group (P < 0.001).*

*Regarding LADA group who those showed positive result to GAD and IA-2 autoantibodies showed that significant decrease in mean activity of SOD and GPX in comparison to those negative to autoantibodies of type 2 diabetic patients and also most of them (LADA) had higher HbA1c level > 8%, P< 0.01.*

*There were significant correlations between the GPX and SOD enzymes with duration of disease and level of HbA<sub>1c</sub> of type 2 diabetics patients P < 0.01, but there was no significant correlations between the enzymes with Age, P > 0.05.*

**KEYWORDS:** Glutamic Acid Decarboxylase, Glutathione Peroxidase, Islet Cell Antigen-2, Superoxide Dismutase, Type 2 Diabetes

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## INTRODUCTION

Type 2 diabetes formerly known as non insulin dependent DM (NIDDM), accounts for essentially the remainder of diagnosed cases of diabetes <sup>(1)</sup> and it results from both decrease insulin secretion as well as the body's inability to effectively utilize the insulin (insulin resistance) <sup>(2,3)</sup>.

While the majority of patients fall under the classical definition of either type 1 or type 2 diabetes, there are at least two subgroups of patient that bridge these classical barriers, studies indicate that as many as 10-15% of patients diagnosed with type 2 diabetes have circulating autoantibodies to either islet cell antigens and they eventually become insulin dependent <sup>(4)</sup>, those patients who are initially misclassified as type 2, are in fact late onset or slow developing type 1 diabetes and some time referred to as latent autoimmune diabetes in adult (LADA) <sup>(5,6)</sup>.

Current researches have shown that the measurement of autoantibodies to glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD), tyrosine phosphatase like protein (IA- 2) and insulin (IAA) can be of a significant value to the clinician in the prediction, diagnosis, and management of patients suffering from diabetes <sup>(7,8)</sup>.

Diabetes mellitus is a syndrome characterized by chronic hyperglycemia and the most common complications such as atherosclerosis, nerve damage, renal failure, male impotence and infection <sup>(9)</sup>. Recently, some evidences suggest that oxidative stress may play an important role in the etiology of diabetes and diabetic complications <sup>(10)</sup>. In healthy individuals, oxidative damage to tissue is prevented by a system of defenses which includes antioxidant enzymes and small molecules with scavenging ability such as antioxidant vitamins <sup>(11)</sup>. In diabetic patients an altered balance between reactive oxygen species production and antioxidant levels has been reported <sup>(12,13)</sup> but there is still lack of data regarding the actual status of antioxidant enzymes in diabetic patients.

The aim of the study 9s to estimate autoantibodies GADA and IA-2A as well as the antioxidant enzymes SOD and GPX among diabetic patients type 2.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Subjects:** Sixty diabetic patients type 2 from Basrah Hospitals during the period from November 2010 till December 2012 were included in the study. Further 60 apparently healthy non-diabetic individuals and they were not first degree relatives for type 2 diabetic patients were considered as control group. Both groups have been instructed and informed about the aim of the study, investigation procedure and their acceptance were taken. The study was ethically approved by the ethical committee of the College of Medicine, University of Basrah, Iraq.

### Diagnostic Kits

All the diagnostic kits were purchased from Human, EUROIMMUN from Germany and Randox from United Kingdom these include:

- Anti- GAD ELISA (IgG) Test (Kit No. EA 1022-9601 G) (EUROIMMUN).
- Anti- IA2 ELISA (IgG) Test (Kit No. EA 1023-9601 G) (EUROIMMUN).
- Glycosylated hemoglobin Hb<sub>A1c</sub> Test(Kit No.10657) (Human).

- Glutathione Peroxidase Test (Kit No. RS 504) (RANDOX).
- Superoxide dismutase Test (Kit No. SD 125) (RANDOX).

All tests were done according to the instruction of the manufacturer.

### **Laboratory Analysis**

After an overnight fasting, 5ml of venous blood was collected from both patient and control subjects, and then divided into the following parts: 2.5ml was transferred to EDTA containing tubes and used for HbA1C estimation within 48 hours. The remaining amount separated by centrifugation at 3000 rpm for 10 min. part of separated plasma is stored in plain tubes at -20°C before testing. Other 2.5ml of whole blood was transferred to heparinized tube and used for glutathione peroxidase and superoxide dismutase enzymes estimation within 48 hours.

### **Statistical Analysis**

Descriptive statistic have been used to describe patient's characteristics by using mean, standard deviation, and percentage (Daniel, 2005). Chi-square test (X<sup>2</sup>), Pearson Chi-square, Correlation coefficients (r), crosstabs, were used and non diabetic control. Data have been entered and stored in Microsoft Access Software and analyzed by SPSS version 15. The statistically significant differences have been assessed with chi-square test at two levels of probability (P≤ 0.05, P ≤ 0.001).

## **RESULTS**

There were 60 type 2 diabetic patients of both sexes (32 females and 28 males) with age ranged between 34 - 65 years with a mean of 49.6 ± 6.1 years. Duration of disease ranging between 1- 24 years. The control group included 60 (34 females and 26 males) apparently health non-diabetic subjects and they were not first degree relatives for type 2 diabetic patients. Age ranged 32-62 years with a mean of 47.2± 5.2 years.

The frequency distribution of biochemical parameters among patients was GAD Ab (25%), IA-2 Ab (13.3%), HbA<sub>1c</sub> (6.7-12.2%), GPX (29.9±2.9 Ug/Hb), SOD (862.8±54.2 Ug/Hb), and Hb g/dl (9-14.2) in comparison to the control group as 0%, 0%, 4.3-5.9%, 49.1±5.2 Ug/Hb, 1249.3±102Ug/Hb respectively (Table 1).

**Table 1: Biochemical Characteristic of 6 Study Groups**

Bio-Chemical Characteristics	Type 1 DM	Control of Type1 DM	Type 2 DM	Control of Type 2 DM	First Relatives	
					Type 1	Type 2
GAD Ab.	27/40 67.5%	0/40	15/60 25%	0/60	6/40 15%	7/60 11.7%
IA-2 Ab.	16/40 40%	0	8/60 13.3%	0	0	0
%HbA1c	6.7-10.8	4.2 – 5.8	6.7-12.2	4.3 – 5.9	4.1-5.7	4.5-5.7
GPX U/g Hb	31.5±3.4	48.0±3.8	29.9±2.9	49.1±5.2	–	–
SOD U/g Hb	860±60	1282±60.4	862.8±54.2	1249.3±102	–	–
Hb g/dl	9.5-12.7	10.5 -14	9-14.2	11.5-15		

**P < 0.01**

The distribution of type 2 diabetic patients according to the age of onset were illustrated in (Table 2, 3).

It was shown that those who developed diabetes earlier (before age of 40 years) significantly had higher prevalence of islet cell autoantibodies than those who developed the disease later (after the age of 40), as there were (57.1%) of GADA positive & (33.3%) IA-2A positive type 2 diabetic patients who developed the disease before age of 40 years in comparison to 7.7 % of GADA positive & 2.6 % IA-2A positive type 2 diabetic patients who developed the disease after this age.

**Table 2: Distribution of Anti- GAD Ab in Type 2 DM According to the Age of Onset**

Results	Positive		Negative		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
≤ 40 year	12	57.1	9	42.9	21
> 40 year	3	7.7	36	92.3	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>45</b>		<b>60</b>

$\chi^2 = 17.802$  df = 1  $P < 0.001$

**Table 3: Distribution of Anti- IA-2 Ab in Type 2 DM According to the Age of Onset**

Results	Positive		Negative		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
≤ 40 year	7	33.3	14	66.7	21
> 40 year	1	2.6	38	97.4	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>52</b>		<b>60</b>

$\chi^2 = 11.183$  df = 1  $P < 0.001$

It was shown from the present study that the prevalence of islet cell autoantibodies is affected by the duration of the disease, (Table 4,5) as the percentage of autoantibodies in patients with duration of disease less than 5 years were 14.3 % & 9.5 % for GADA & IA-2A respectively and the percentage begin to change to 42.9%, 0 for GADA & IA-2A respectively in those with duration of disease more than 13 years duration.

The relation of GADA and IA-2A with the duration of disease showed no significant differences ( $P > 0.05$ ) (Table 4, 5).

**Table 4: Influence of Duration of the Disease in the Prevalence of GADA in Type 2 Diabetes**

Result	Positive		Negative		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
< 5	3	14.3	18	85.7	21
5 -8	6	33.3	12	66.7	18
9 -12	3	21.4	11	78.6	14
> 13	3	42.9	4	57.1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>45</b>		<b>60</b>

$\chi^2 = 5.981$  df = 4  $p > 0.05$

**Table 5: Influence of Duration of the Disease in the Prevalence of IA-2 A in Type 2 Diabetes**

Result	Positive		Negative		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
< 5	2	9.5	19	90.5	21
5 -8	3	16.7	15	83.3	18
9 -12	3	21.4	11	78.6	14
> 13	0	0	7	100	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>52</b>		<b>60</b>

$\chi^2 = 5.981$  df = 4  $p > 0.05$

According to HbA<sub>1c</sub> levels, the diabetic patients were divided into three groups, patients with good diabetic control (GDC) with HbA<sub>1c</sub> level less than 7.0%, patients with fair diabetic control (FDC) with HbA<sub>1c</sub> level between 7.0%- 8.0% and patients with poor diabetic control (PDC) with HbA<sub>1c</sub> level more than 8.0% (Table 6).

As expected, there are significant differences in mean level of HbA<sub>1c</sub> among three groups of both types of patients ( $p < 0.01$  in all cases).

**Table 6: Frequency Distribution of Patients of Both Types and Control. According to HbA<sub>1c</sub> Levels**

Groups	Type 1 Diabetes			Type 2 Diabetes			
	Sub-Groups	No.	%	HbA <sub>1c</sub> Mean $\pm$ SD	No.	%	HbA <sub>1c</sub> Mean $\pm$ SD
G DC Good diabetic control < 7%	6	15		6.8 $\pm$ 0.08	8	13.3	6.83 $\pm$ 0.07
F D C (Fair diabetic control) (7% – 8%)	8	20		7.7 $\pm$ 0.15	9	15	7.6 $\pm$ 0.18
P D C (Poor diabetic control) > 8%	26	65		9.3 $\pm$ 0.68	43	71.7	9.6 $\pm$ 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>		<b>8.6 <math>\pm</math> 1.1</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8.9 <math>\pm</math> 1.4</b>

The activities of SOD and GPX in patients and control were determined. As shown in (Table 7), significant reduction in the activities of both enzymes in both types of patients was noticed ( $p < 0.001$ ).

**Table 7: Mean Activity of SOD and GPX in Patients and Control**

Variables	Type 1 Diabetes		T	P	Type 2 Diabetes		T	P
	Patients	Control			Patients	Control		
GPX (U/gHb)	31.5 $\pm$ 3.38	48.0 $\pm$ 3.8	-20.4	.00	29.8 $\pm$ 3.1	49.1 $\pm$ 5.1	-24.6	.00
SOD (U/gHb)	860 $\pm$ 60	1282 $\pm$ 60.4	-31.3	.00	862 $\pm$ 55.1	1249 $\pm$ 102	-25.9	.00

**Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  SD. P < 0.001**

**T= -24.6**

**P < 0.001**

In type 2 diabetic patients possible correlation between the activities of antioxidant enzymes, SOD and GPX with age, duration of diabetes and levels of HbA<sub>1c</sub> were also studied. As showed in (Table 8). There were significant correlations between the GPX and SOD enzymes with duration of disease and level of HbA<sub>1c</sub> of type 2 diabetics patients  $P < 0.01$ , but there was no significant correlations between the enzymes with Age,  $P > 0.05$ .

**Table 8: Correlation between Glutathione Peroxidase (Gpx), Superoxide Dismutase (SOD) and Clinical Characteristics of Type 2 D.M Patients**

Clinical and Biochemical Characteristics	Type 2 D.M GPX (U/g Hb)		Type 2 D.M SOD (U/g Hb)	
	r	P	R	P
Age (year)	- .142	> 0.05	- .004	> 0.05
Duration of diabetes (year)	- 0.358**	< 0.05	-0.0311*	< 0.05
HbA1c %	- 0.619**	< 0.05	- 0.551**	< 0.05
Clinical and Biochemical Characteristics	Control GPX (U/g Hb)		Control SOD (U/g Hb)	
	r	P	R	P
Age (year)	- .521**	P < 0.05	- .537**	P < 0.05

\*\*Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level.

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level.

## DISCUSSIONS

Autoimmune diabetes is subdivided into a rapidly progressive form that is commonly seen in children and early adulthood and more slowly progressive form of type 1 diabetes was termed latent autoimmune diabetes of adults (LADA; referring to the latency of autoimmunity) or type 1.5 diabetes. However, the late age of clinical presentation (with onset after the age of 30 years) and absence of immediate insulin requirement they always misdiagnosed as type 2 diabetes<sup>(14,15)</sup>.

The diagnosis of LADA is difficult due to a lack of defining features; most authors propose that LADA should have three features including: adult age at diagnosis, the presence of diabetes-associated autoantibodies, and delay from diagnosis in the need for insulin therapy to manage hyperglycemia<sup>(16)</sup>. However, the first and last are not categorical traits, being dependent on the mode of ascertainment and decision making by physicians. The second feature lacks disease specificity because it is based on positivity for autoantibodies found in type 1 diabetes mellitus.

In an attempt to identify the prevalence of LADA in those who are clinically diagnosed as type 2 DM, a 60 type 2 diabetic patients were investigated for the presence of islet cell autoantibodies (GADA&IA-2A), as they considered as markers for autoimmunity, and correlate their presence with some clinical variables to establish the diagnosis of LADA and to predict insulin dependency in those patients. From 60 type 2 diabetic patients, there were 15(25 %) GADA positive, 8(13.3%) IA-2A positive, and the percentage of these antibodies increased up to 28.3 % when GADA & / IA-2A positive results calculated together.

This prevalence in patients phenotypically diagnosed as type 2 diabetes is in agreement with prevalence of LADA in patients reported by Turner<sup>(17)</sup> in United Kingdom Prospective Diabetic Study (UKPDS) as they registered a 25-34% of LADA patients in type 2 diabetics, also this finding is in agreement with Other<sup>(18)</sup>, as they demonstrated the relative high frequency of this form of diabetes (approximately 20%,) among type 2 diabetic patients in the age range 25-44 years. Also agreement with prevalence of LADA in patients reported by Torn et al. demonstrated that that 47% of type 2 and 59% of unclassifiable patients at diagnosis in the age range from 15 to 34 years had B- cell autoimmune antibodies in Sweden<sup>(19)</sup>. Humphrey et al. demonstrated that 37% of adult onset insulin treated patients had positive GADA levels on a population based study in Australia<sup>(13)</sup>. Jasem, el al demonstrated that 18.9% of adults on oral hypoglycemic treated patients had positive GADA levels in Iraq<sup>(20)</sup>.

In contrast, Lutale et al. found low prevalence of GADA and IA-2A autoantibodies (7.3%) among the young onset diabetes subjects of African origin in Dar elSalaam, Tanzania. concluding low prevalence of LADA among these patients<sup>(21)</sup>. Park et al. also revealed low prevalence of GADA of 1.7% in newly diagnosed type 2 Korean patients age over 30 years from a population based study<sup>(22)</sup> and so do Thai et al.<sup>(23)</sup>. The prevalence of LADA in Italy was estimated in a population based study and it was 2% of all cases of adult diabetes and 2.8% of those diagnosed<sup>(24)</sup>.

This result is in agreement with other studies<sup>(25,26,27)</sup> who estimated a significantly higher prevalence of these antibodies (GADA, IA-2A) in young patients with type 2 DM. The explanation of this finding may be due to the facts that those patients who develop the disease before age of 40 years have HLA-DR3/DR4 and show significant higher frequencies of anti-islet cell antibodies while those who begin the disease after 40 years were HLADRB1/DRQB1 which show much less evidence of autoimmunity<sup>(28,29,30)</sup>.

When the duration of the disease is taken in consideration as a factor affecting the frequency of these antibodies, it was found that the frequency of these antibodies not significant relations with the duration of the disease.

These results were controversial, when discussed, as many studies showed the same results like <sup>(20)</sup>, and who are demonstrated a increase of antibodies with time <sup>(21)</sup> and who are showed other studies decrease and disappearance of these autoantibodies with time<sup>(31,32)</sup> and they explained this finding by seroconversion of patients from GADA & IA- 2A negative at onset of disease to GADA & IA-2A positive later on. These differences may vary greatly with race and antibody assay methods <sup>(33)</sup>.

This finding is in agreement with a number of studies <sup>(34,35,36,37,38,39,40)</sup> and are not compatible with others (4142,43,44,45,46,47,).

In diabetic patients, the autoxidation of glucose results in the formation of hydrogen peroxide which inactivates SOD <sup>(48)</sup>. Therefore, the accumulation of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> may be one of the explanations for decreased SOD in these patients. Also, the characteristic feature of diabetes, hyperglycemia, enhances non-enzymatic binding of glucose to proteins. This phenomenon, glycation, causes structural and functional changes in the proteins like hemoglobin, albumin, basal membranes of glomeruli, etc.

Antioxidant enzymes are endogenous proteins that work in combination to protect cells from reactive oxygen species (ROS) damage. Increased levels of the products of oxidative damage to lipids and protein have been detected in the serum of diabetic patients and their presence correlates with the development of complications <sup>(49)</sup>.

Similar findings were reported by various other studies<sup>(46,50,51,52,53,54,55)</sup>. The diabetic patients had shown an antioxidant activities of enzymes such as SOD and GPx were markedly diminished in comparison to controls.

However, some authors found no differences between GPX activity of types I or II diabetic patients and control (54,22).

Thus showing that the presence of circulating autoantibodies could in some way contribute to the poor action of insulin in a percentage of patients with type II diabetes mellitus. Thus autoantibodies could be associated with increased insulin resistance. This fact agree with other study<sup>(56)</sup>.

There is significantly higher prevalence of GAD and IA-2 autoantibodies of islet cell among patients with type 2 diabetes in comparison to the non diabetic control group. Oxidative stress SOD and GPX are depleted among diabetic patients. In addition, there is negative correlation between SOD and GPX depletion and poor diabetic control that reflect the more oxidative stress with poor diabetic patients may progress complications.

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